



Career Fair slated for Dec. 2

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NEW PORT RICHEY - Unemployment numbers in Pasco County and the region remain stubbornly high, so U.S. Rep. Gus Bilirakis will hold a free Career Fair on Thursday, Dec. 2.

Bilirakis, R-Palm Harbor, said nearly two dozen Tampa Bay employers will appear at the event from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Spartan Manor, 6121 Massachusetts Ave.

After several months above 13 percent, Pasco's unemployment rate dipped to 12.7 percent in October, the latest figures released Friday by the state's Agency for Workforce Innovation. In October 2009 the county stood at 12.6 percent unemployment.

The county's jobless rate remains far above the statewide average of 11.6 percent unemployed in October and the nationwide average of 9 percent.

"Florida's unemployment rate remains one of the highest in the country, so we must do all we can to connect those who are out of work with employers," Bilirakis said in a press release. "This career fair will serve as an excellent opportunity for those in search of jobs to meet with potential employers in the area."

The career fair is free and open to the public. Job-seekers should dress professionally, bring plenty of resumes, and prepare for potential interviews.

Companies or agencies with local offices and stores are scheduled to send representatives to the event. They include Pasco County Sheriff's Office, Coldwell Banker F.I. Grey & Son real estate company, HCA West Florida hospitals, Bright House Networks, Pasco County Clerk and Comptroller, Sun Trust Bank, Rasmussen College, Ford of Port Richey, Liberty Tax Service, Sam's Club and Alzheimer's Family Organization.

Also scheduled to appear are U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Small Business Administration, Express Employment Professionals, Barry University, AFLAC, Edward Jones and Spherion. More employers probably will come on board by Dec. 2, according to Creighton Welch, press secretary for Bilirakis.

People with additional questions can contact Bilirakis' Palm Harbor office at 727-773-2871.